

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD

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TO: INTERESTED PROFESSIONALS

RE: AUDIOLOGY SUPPORT PERSONNEL- REVISIONS OF REGULATORY
STANDARDS FOR AUDIOLOGY AIDES

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board is reviewing its current statutory and regulatory provisions governing the use of audiology support personnel in the state. Existing provisions (See attached Aide Laws and Regulations Excerpts) require audiology support personnel, that is the *audiology aide*, to be registered with the state by a licensed audiologist. These same provisions require the licensed audiologist to **directly supervise**, (*interpreted as in-line of sight supervision*), the audiology aide at all times while the aide is providing audiologic services. The regulations apply to all professional settings, where the audiologist is serving in a supervisory role directing the activities of the support personnel. *There is one exception to the supervision rule that pertains to audiology aides working in industrial settings. (See attached Excerpts -California Code of Regulations Section 1399.154.2(c)).*

The intent of the SLPAB's review is to consider alternative regulatory provisions that will increase the usefulness of the audiology aide to the supervising audiologist in terms of improving productivity, access to professional services and overall quality of care to the consumer, while maintaining a high-level of consumer protection. To that end, the SLPAB is requesting your input on duties that may be appropriately delegated to an audiology aide and the associated supervision parameters.

Enclosed is a list of audiology aide duties and an accompanying chart delineating proposed supervision standards. The duties listed were extracted from SLPAB Audiology Aide Registration documents while the supervision chart, was compiled by audiology professional advisory members. Please take a moment and review the documents and share your thoughts with the SLPAB on the enclosed survey document which you can find on the SLPAB website at www.slpab.ca.gov under the link "Decisions Pending and Opportunities for Public Participation." Once you have completed the survey, you may submit the document by email to slpab@dca.ca.gov, by facsimile at (916) 263-2668, or by regular mail at the address noted above, Attention: Annemarie Del Mugnaio. Please submit your responses no later than February 26, 2009.

Thank you in advance for reviewing the materials and for any input you may provide. The SLPAB truly appreciates your assistance and values the expert opinions of the audiology professional community

Sincerely,

Annemarie Del Mugnaio

Annemarie Del Mugnaio
Executive Officer

SAMPLE OF AUDIOLOGY AIDE DUTIES

- Instruct patients in use and care and maintenance of hearing aids and hearing aid orientation.
- Assist as a pediatric, special population, test assistant.
- Assist with automatic auditory brainstem evoked response
- supply and instrument ordering
- maintain exam rooms
- hearing aid troubleshooting and service
- NOAH software patient data input and programming set-up
- performing audiologist testing for pure tone air condition
- Scheduling
- clean hearing device, change tubing, perform listening checks and 2cc coupler measures for patients of the practice
- take earmold impressions as indicated by the audiologist and modify existing earmolds and hearing device
- perform tympanometry acoustic reflexes, pure tone air and bone condition audiologist speech reception threshold and speech discrimination on return patients
- hook up patients to have their hearing automatically tested using an automated audiometer
- Chart management
- present to employees a pre-script and/or videotaped education program on hearing and hearing conversations meetings OSHA and CAL-OSHA
- instruct patients in the care and maintenance of hearing device
- perform Electro-acoustic analyses of hearing instruments to determine whether the instruments meet specifications
- perform miscellaneous clerical tasks
- assist and perform ENG and VAT
- assist during the automatic measurements of acoustic impedance using an automated tympanometer
- supervise acoustic impedance, otoacoustic emission and auditory evoked potential
- examine the ear canal using an otoscope
- translation
- perform technical VNG evaluation
- perform gaze, spontaneous and fixation nystagmus tests
- perform optokinetic test
- utilize appropriate infection control measures in patient and hearing interactions
- assist in biological calibration of diagnostic equipment

AUDIOLOGY AIDE SUPERVISION TABLE

DIRECT SUPERVISION- (IN PLAIN VIEW)	GENERAL SUPERVISION (IN FACILITY- AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION)	INDIRECT SUPERVISION (NOT IN FACILITY- AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE OR ELECTRONIC MEANS)	OTHER- NOT A AUDIOLOGY FUNCTION (GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY. DOES NOT REQUIRE A HEALTH CARE LICENSE TO PERFORM.)
Test assistant for pediatric evaluations	Hearing Screening	Hearing Aid Troubleshooting	Front-Office Work
Take Earmold Impressions (high-risk procedure)	Pure Tone Air-Conduction, Bone Conduction, Speech Testing	Hearing Aid Repair	Selling Ancillary Services (TV Ears, Batteries, Cleaning Tools etc)
Assist in Biological Calibration	Infant Re-Screens (automated ABR or OAE) without interpretation or parent counseling	Hearing aid maintenance (cleaning, tubing change, replace battery door, etc)	Equipment Maintenance
	Re-Programming Hearing Aids or Cochlear Implants	Earmold Modification	Supply and Instrument Ordering
	ENG/VNG testing	Provide Pre-Scripted and Video- Taped Instruction and Education on Hearing and Hearing Conservation for OSHA	Maintain Exam Rooms
	Hearing Aid Orientation (how to insert/remove, how to change battery, how to manipulate switches, how to clean)	Electroacoustic Analysis of Hearing Aids	NOAH Software Patient Data Input and Programming Set-up
	Selling Assistive Listening Devices (e.g., Pocket Talker)		Scheduling
	Providing "loaner" Hearing Aids		Chart Management
	Performing Otoscopy (only for the purpose of looking for cerumen occlusion)		Clerical tasks
	Perform Tympanometry/Acoustic Reflex Threshold, OAE		Translation
	Hook up patients for automatic testing (otogram)		

**SURVEY OF AUDIOLOGY AIDE DUTIES
AND ASSIGNED SUPERVISION STANDARDS**

- 1.) Do you agree that the tasks listed on the *Sample of Audiology Aide Duties* are appropriate to assign to audiology support personnel?

☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate what tasks should be stricken or added to the list.

- 2.) Do you agree with the tasks listed under “Direct Supervision” meaning in line-of-sight supervision on the *Audiology Aide Supervision Table*?

☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate what tasks should be stricken or added to the list.

- 3.) Do you agree with the tasks listed under “General Supervision” meaning in the facility and available for immediate consultation on the *Audiology Aide Supervision Table*?

☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate what tasks should be stricken or added to the list.

- 4.) Do you agree with the tasks listed under “Indirect Supervision” meaning not in the facility but available by telephonic or other electronic means on the *Audiology Aide Supervision Table*?

☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate what tasks should be stricken or added to the list.

- 5.) Do you agree that the tasks listed under the heading “Other-Not An Audiology Function” should be categorized as such, meaning that no regulation of the tasks is necessary?

☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please indicate what tasks should be stricken or added to the list.

Please submit your survey responses by fax: (916) 263-2668 or email: slpab@dca.ca.gov

Written Responses May be Mailed to:
SLPAB, Attn: Annemarie Del Mugnaio
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